PATENT

Docket No.: 48317USA3H.027

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3 PRIOR ART

In re Application of:

DANIEL A. JAPUNTICH ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/678,579

Filed: October 3, 2000

P FEB 2 0 2001 I

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

For: FIBROUS FILTRATION FACE MASK HAVING A NEW UNIDIRECTIONAL FLUID VALVE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the continuing duty of candor and good faith that is to be demonstrated before this Office, enclosed are copies of the documents cited on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following United States patent applications:

- 1. U.S. Serial No. 09/440,619, Japuntich et al., filed on November 15, 1999, entitled Filtering Face Mask That Has A New Exhalation Valve, which is a division of U.S. Serial No. 08/240,877, which is a division of U.S. Serial No. 07/981,244, filed on November 25, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,325,892, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 07/891,298, now abandoned.
- 2. U.S. Serial No. 09/442,082, Bowers, filed November 15, 1999, entitled *Uni-Directional Fluid Valve*, which is a reissue application of U.S. Patent No. 5,687,767, issued November 18, 1997.
- 3. U.S. Serial No. 09/678,488, Japuntich et al., filed October 3, 2000, entitled Fibrous Filtration Face Mask Having A New Unidirectional Fluid Valve.
- 4. U.S. Serial No. 09/677,636, Japuntich et al., filed October 3, 2000, entitled *Fibrous Filtration Face Mask Having A New Unidirectional Fluid Valve*.
- 5. U.S. Serial No. 09/677,915, Japuntich et al., filed October 3, 2000, entitled Fibrous Filtration Face Mask Having A New Unidirectional Fluid Valve.
- 6. U.S. Serial No. 09/678,580, Japuntich et al., filed October 3, 2000, entitled Fibrous Filtration Face Mask Having A New Unidirectional Fluid Valve.

- 7. U.S. Serial No. 09/677,637, Japuntich et al., filed October 3, 2000, entitled Fibrous Filtration Face Mask Having A New Unidirectional Fluid Valve.
- 8. U.S. Serial No. 09/678,581, Japuntich et al., filed October 3, 2000, entitled Fibrous Filtration Face Mask Having A New Unidirectional Fluid Valve.

A copy of the application for U.S. Serial Nos. 09/442,082 is enclosed for the Examiner's reference.

Copies of the applications for U.S. Serial Nos. 09/440,619, 09/677,915, 09/677,636, 09/677,637, 09/678,581, 09/678,580, and 09/678,488 (which are all divisions of U.S. Serial No. 08/240,877, filed May 11, 1994, which is a division of U.S. Serial No. 07/981,244, filed November 25, 1992, now U.S. Patent 5,325,892, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 07/891,289, now abandoned) and U.S. Serial No. 08/240,877, have not been enclosed for the Examiner's reference because the application for these cases are the same as this application.

All of the above-noted applications are listed on the attachment to Form PTO-1449. Applicants request that these co-pending applications not be printed on the issued patent.

If a first Office Action has been mailed prior to the Certificate of Mailing date of this Disclosure Statement, please charge the fee for consideration of the Disclosure Statement, set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl G. Hanson

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 32,900

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel 3M Innovative Properties Company 3M Center, P.O. Box 33427 St. Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427

Telephone: (651) 736-7776 Facsimile: (651) 736-3833

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 I certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the date indicated below with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Karl G. Hanson

Dated: February / _____, 2001

3700 MAIL RI